

Oral Testimony to the SBOE in Support of the Revised Rearticulated Science Standards

Russell G. Wright

Mr. President, Madame Vice-President, State Board members, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am Dr. Russell Wright. I am representing The George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development to urge you to accept the Revised Science Standards before you.

My career as a science teacher began in 1967. When I started teaching there were no published standards. I entered the profession full of science knowledge that I had gained first as a pre-med major then as a zoology major. I had great confidence that I could transfer that knowledge to anyone who would listen.

Although I was successful with most students, I quickly found out that when students didn't learn it wasn't always their fault. Many of my students came to me with misconceptions that interfered with their learning; and some of the misconceptions were actually taught to them by their previous teachers.

Standards documents provide the best chance for eliminating such teacher-taught misconceptions but only if they themselves are accurate.

At GW we require all of our pre-service science teachers to successfully complete a three-credit course we call **Recent Developments in Teaching Science**. In that course we stress the importance of educational research, and what research tells us about the effectiveness of different teaching techniques, materials, and innovative programs. We also spend a significant part of the course having our students examine science education standards documents from AAAS (*Benchmarks for Science Literacy* and *Atlas of Science Literacy*) and the National Academies of Science (*National Science Education Standards*).

We have not used the DCPS Science Standards because they contain too many scientific inaccuracies.

At GW we are excited that the Revised and Rearticulated Science Standards are up to date, scientifically accurate, and possess a clarity of language that will be helpful to students, parents, and teachers.

If you see fit to adopt these new standards I look forward to presenting them to our graduate students.